

REMARKS

Claim 1 is amended to clarify the invention and to expedite prosecution. Claims 7, 18, and 29 were indicated as being allowable, and formerly dependent and now independent Claim 7 is amended to include the limitations of the base Claim 1, independent Claim 12 is amended to include the limitations of Claim 18 (now cancelled), and independent Claim 23 is amended to include the limitations of Claim 29 (now cancelled). Claims 1-17, 19-28, and 30-33 remain, and reconsideration and allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

The amendments to the claims are understood to make moot the rejections under 35 USC §102(e) and 35 USC §103(a). Claim 1, for example, includes further limitations of each net associated with a placement pattern having placement of the source relative to placement of the loads identical to each other net associated with the placement pattern, and the routing including, in response to a placement pattern having more than two associated nets, determining whether more than two nets associated with the placement pattern are routable with one selected routing template, wherein a routing template specifies relative routing resources that represent a pattern of a possible route for all the nets associated with the placement pattern, and in response to determining that more than two nets associated with the routing pattern are routable with the one selected routing pattern, routing the more than two nets consistent with the one selected routing template.

These added limitations of Claim 1, as well as the original limitations, are not understood to be suggested by the cited prior art, either alone or in combination, since none of the references apparently uses routing templates for the nets of a placement pattern as claimed. Example embodiments of the claim limitations may be found in paragraphs [0027], [0031]-[0034], [0049], [0053] and in FIGs. 2, 2A-C, FIG. 3, and FIG. 4. Therefore, Claim 1 is understood to be patentable over the cited prior art.

The rejections of the claims under 35 USC §102(e) and 35 USC §103(a) are respectfully traversed. As to the §102 rejection, the Office Action does not show that all the limitations of Claims 1, 11-12, 22-23, and 33 are taught by "Dante" (US patent no. 6,907,592 to Dante). However, the rejection is moot in view of the amendments, and the rejection should be withdrawn.

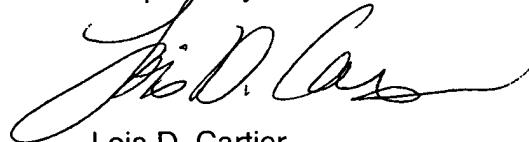
• The Office Action does not establish that Claims 4-6, 11-12, 15-17, 22-23, 26-28 and 33 are unpatentable under 35 USC §103(a) over "Adusumalli" (U.S. patent no. 6,757,885 to Adusumalli et al.) in view of "Britton" (U.S. patent no. 5,394,031 to Britton et al.). The rejection is respectfully traversed because a *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been established. Specifically, the Office Action does not show that all the limitations are suggested and does not provide sufficient evidence to support a motivation to make the combination. The rejection is moot, however, in view of the amendments to the claims. Therefore, the rejection of Claims 4-6, 11-12, 15-17, 22-23, 26-28 and 33 should be withdrawn.

The Office Action does not establish that Claims 2-3, 13-14 and 24-25 are unpatentable under 35 USC §103(a) over the Adusumalli-Britton combination, and in further view of "Putatunda" (U.S. patent no. 4,815,003 to Putatunda et al.). The rejection is respectfully traversed because a *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been established. Specifically, the Office Action does not show that all the limitations are suggested and does not provide sufficient evidence to support a motivation to make the combination. The rejection is moot, however, in view of the amendments to the claims. Therefore, the rejection of Claims 2-3, 13-14 and 24-25 should be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

Reconsideration and a notice of allowance are respectfully requested in view of the Remarks presented above. If the Examiner has any questions or concerns, a telephone call to the undersigned is invited.

Respectfully submitted,



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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450, on May 25, 2006.

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